

Public Law 102-57
102d Congress

Joint Resolution

Designating June 10 through 16, 1991, as "Pediatric AIDS Awareness Week".

June 18, 1991

[H.J. Res. 91]

Whereas more than 157,525 individuals in the United States have been diagnosed with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (commonly known as AIDS) and 98,530 have died from the disease; Whereas the Public Health Service has estimated that there will be 365,000 cases of AIDS by the end of 1992 and that there are currently between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 persons in the United States infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (commonly known as HIV) which causes AIDS;

Whereas heterosexual AIDS is not a myth as evidenced by the fact that the proportion of females with AIDS continues to rise, as does the number of pediatric AIDS cases of children infected perinatally;

Whereas pediatric AIDS refers to AIDS patients under the age of 13 at the time of being diagnosed with the disease;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control has reported 2,734 cases of pediatric AIDS resulting in 1,423 deaths as of November 1990;

Whereas approximately 75 percent of teenagers in the United States have had sexual intercourse by the age of 19;

Whereas among the 25,000,000 adolescents between the ages of 13 and 19 there are subgroups who either have intercourse at an earlier age or whose patterns of sexual behavior put them at risk of becoming infected with HIV;

Whereas HIV-infected women can transmit the virus to their infants during pregnancy or at birth;

Whereas more than 80 percent of children with AIDS have a parent with, or at risk for, HIV infection;

Whereas 27 percent of reported pediatric AIDS cases in the United States have occurred in New York City and 74 percent of those are related to drug use by a parent or unprotected sexual activity;

Whereas 70 percent of women who are HIV-infected and 78 percent of children with pediatric AIDS are African-American or Latino, many of whom have experienced social and economic discrimination;

Whereas there have been 157 cases of pediatric AIDS reported to the Centers for Disease Control in Miami, Florida; 123 cases in Newark, New Jersey; 106 cases in San Juan, Puerto Rico; 90 cases in Los Angeles, California; 64 cases in Washington, District of Columbia; 53 cases in West Palm Beach, Florida; 53 cases in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; 51 cases in Boston, Massachusetts; 50 cases in Chicago, Illinois; 49 cases in Baltimore, Maryland; and 45 cases in Houston, Texas;

Whereas schools across the Nation continue to discriminate against AIDS and HIV-infected children and their families;

Whereas there are increasing numbers of HIV-infected children and it is important that the people of the United States diligently seek preventative measures and better solutions to care for HIV-in-

fectured pregnant women, including helping them gain access to new delaying and preventative therapies to allow time for biomedical progress;

Whereas early intervention and educational resources must be made available to all citizens, especially adolescents, women who are drug abusers, and other high-risk groups to make them more aware of AIDS and the risks associated with engaging in unprotected sexual activity;

Whereas the Health Care Financing Administration and the Public Health Service should work with appropriate State officials to help design optimal care packages needed for children with AIDS or HIV infection; and

Whereas States and localities should recognize relatives as an appropriate source of foster care for children with AIDS whose parents can no longer care for them, subject to the same review and afforded the same benefits as other foster parents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That June 10 through 16, 1991, is designated as "Pediatric AIDS Awareness Week", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Approved June 18, 1991.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 91:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 137 (1991):

June 5, considered and passed House.

June 11, considered and passed Senate.